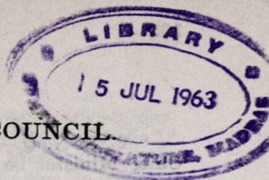


THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Saturday, the 30th March 1963.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Zari (gold lace) making factory

*1. S.N. *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to start zari (gold lace) making factory in the State; if so, whether it is in the public sector or in the private sector; and

(*b*) the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) & (*b*) The possibility of starting a zari making unit in this State is under examination.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Is the Hon. Minister aware of the difficulties faced by the handloom weavers especially in getting the lace for use in the handloom industry in view of the Gold Control Order?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Yes, Sir, we are aware of the difficulties of the gold thread weavers, particularly silk weavers in Madras State who use zari for borders and other embellishments. Government are trying to procure in bulk zari from other parts of India and distribute it amongst the weavers as soon as possible.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : In view of such difficulties, will the Government decide to start a factory at the earliest possible moment?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Government do not propose to start a factory. Already there is a proposal to start one in the co-operative sector. The difficulty is with regard to import of machinery. It requires fairly sizeable foreign exchange. Therefore, Government are now considering whether it would be possible to buy second hand machinery and try to start one in the co-operative sector. It is only in a very preliminary stage of investigation.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : If any private party comes forward, are the Government prepared to give all the financial and technical assistance?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, the Government would welcome any enterprise which wants to start a zari making unit in Madras State and every facility would be afforded to the unit.